

UK National Statement – WIPO General Assemblies 2019

The United Kingdom would like to thank you Mr. Chair for guiding us through the General Assembly of the WIPO. We also thank the Director General and the Secretariat for their commitment to this organisation and align ourselves with the statements made by the [EU Presidency and] Group B.

As the UK prepares to leave the European Union at the end of October, we aim to do so with certainty and stability. For users of the IP system, this means that we will ensure continuity of protection for rightsholders, including those with EU designated rights in the Hague and Madrid systems.

In the WIPO, the current biennium has seen good progress from the UK's perspective. Our businesses place great value on WIPO services that protect and support IP internationally. With this in mind, we support the continued push towards digital transformation to improve services for rightsholders. Something that we need to approach strategically as future business demands change.

Evolution of effective systems and good performance require a progressive programme and budget. This is of the utmost importance and we stand ready to assist, including through our Ambassador Staines, Chair of the Program and Budget Committee.

Regarding the 2020 DG election process, I want to make clear that the UK will work positively and productively to pursue its priorities with the next leadership of the WIPO, as it has done with the current one.

Last year I spoke of stepping up the UK's commitment to this organisation. Since then, the membership has supported UK Chairs in two key WIPO bodies, we have brought forward several formal proposals and played our part in finding ways forward on the important international issues.

We have also worked with WIPO to deliver the London AI & IP Conference to build a better understanding of the implications of artificial intelligence on IP. We found that issues such as access to and utilisation of data, and attribution of rights to AI output, are applicable across Member States and need an international approach.

Another important topic is IP valuation. We are working to better understand challenges faced by innovators in unlocking the value of their IP as an asset. We recognise that this is a global challenge and are keen to work with others to make progress.

Mr. Chair in recent times we have seen the overall atmospherics in WIPO improve. We cannot take this for granted. We must continue to see the bigger picture, supporting international IP services that deliver value for global IP stakeholders.

With this in mind, we look forward to a constructive meeting of the General Assemblies.

Thank you Mr Chair.